

I feel that the local traffic and weather that is provided by XM is not in any way detrimental to terrestrial radio. Yes, they do have traffic and weather. But they are not constantly broadcast. To hear the specific information you have to listen to all the banter of the morning people and the other stuff that is not that important. XM provides what I need when I need it. If I have to go to D.C., I tune in to the channel and it gives me a breakdown of the weather and any traffic problems. I can tune in from my home, 250 miles away and plan my route and even plan what I may need to wear for the weather. This is something that traditional radio can not provide and in no way has a motivation to even explore. I also listen to regular radio while in the city because at that point it is usually more convenient. This is true no matter where I travel. Also, This information is provided 24 hours a day, this is not something that I hear a lot of other stations doing. The XM channels for Wx and Traffic are useful, and do not impede local stations. It would be reasonable to say that was true if the local stations were providing the same service, but they do not come close. To simply say that XM can not broadcast this information would almost be the same as saying that if one station in a city provides weather or traffic information, then no other station would be allowed to broadcast it. This seems to be a situation of one system trying to stifle competition. We have always been told that competition is good. Then XM should be allowed to compete. To stop XM at this juncture would be probably just the beginning of trying to create virtual geographic monopoly in radio. A conclusion that could be drawn, yet unlikely: One radio station per market. No competition. That station would be happy, yet I do not think the customer would be. The main consideration should be the consumer. A person joins XM for a reason. Be it less commercials, less "fluff", more information when they want it. This is what a small portion of people want then it should not be taken away because radio stations feel that they are losing their listener base. The numbers are so small but they need to literally make a federal case out of it.

A good analogy would be a shopping mall. You have all the stores that everybody shops at. You find similar items in a lot of them and sometimes in other malls you will find the same stores. Additionally, you have the larger national chain stores that anchor the shopping center. Everyone in the mall competes, and provides their own niche and product. No one goes around and says that the national chains should not provide jewelry because there is a jewelry store in the shopping mall. This may to some degree be an over simplification, but the root situation is the same.

I believe that I have given my opinion, yet long, but complete.

Thank you for hearing my opinion.